

CRJ 3313 Criminology

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Required Textbook:

Siegel, Larry J. (2023). *Criminology*, (8th Edition). Cengage.

Course Overview & Objectives:

Welcome to *Criminology*! In this class, you will begin to develop a sociological perspective for understanding crime and criminal behavior. Sociology is the scientific study of society and this class is designed to expose you to the fundamental theories, tools, research methods, and emerging areas of inquiry in the discipline of criminology. This class will cover major crime concepts and typologies, theories of crime causation, and the criminal justice system, while paying particular attention to race, culture, sex, and socioeconomic factors. By the end of the semester you will be able to think like a criminologist when considering current issues in crime and public policy. Specifically, students will develop an understanding of the sociological study of crime and key concepts of criminology as a discipline, understand how criminological research is developed and conducted, demonstrate an understanding of the motives, causes, reasons and correlates of crime, be able to trace the historical, social, and political processes that have impacted views of crime and punishment in the United States, and to become a critical consumer of media and political discourse about crime and criminals in our society.

Class Format:

This course is NOT self-paced. Instead, this course is based on weekly modules that open each Monday morning at 12:30am and close the following Saturday at 11:59PM (Mountain Standard Time). If students fail to submit any required work before the module closes they will receive a grade of zero (0) for that assignment—no exceptions!

As outlined in the syllabus below, each weekly module will focus on one chapter from our textbook. For each of these chapters, I will prepare a chapter outline that is intended to provide guidance and structure to students as they read the chapter. Students should read this outline before reading the chapter. Students are also encouraged to read the conclusions at the end of each chapter and to pay close attention to the “key terms” that are found in the textbook for each chapter.

All exams, quizzes, and written assignments are “open book” and “open notes,” meaning that students can use any class materials they wish when completing these assignments. However, they cannot “collaborate” in any way with any person (whether they are a fellow student or not) when completing the assignments. Doing so constitutes cheating and will be dealt with per the policy on academic dishonesty specified later in the syllabus.

Students will be able to communicate with me and each other to ask questions, share concerns, raise ideas, etc. through “Dr. Z’s Corner.” This is an open forum discussion board where students can post general questions, comments, and ideas for each other and me. I will access “Dr. Z’s Corner” at least once each business day and post any needed responses. The postings on “Dr. Z’s Corner” will be continuously available to students throughout the semester. Finally, never post exam questions on “Dr. Z’s corner.” Posting exam questions before everyone has taken the exam will be considered an act of cheating.

REQUIREMENTS:

Exams: Your grade in this class will be based on 4 exams and 4 written assignments. Exams are to be taken on the week stated in the syllabus. Make-up exams may only be acceptable under extreme circumstances, such as a medical or personal emergency. I must warn you, however, that I base these decisions on a very narrow definition of extreme. The student must provide me with proper documentation to qualify for a make-up (documentation does not, unfortunately, guarantee that a make-up will be given). Missed exams will be assigned a grade of zero (0). All makeup exams, if granted, must be completed within one week of the original exam date. Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of 400 points. Again, a grade of zero (0) will be assigned to each exam not submitted by the time the respective weekly module closes. Students will have 90 minutes (1 hour and 30 minutes) to complete the exam once they begin. Exams will be available on Monday and will close at 11:59PM on Saturday (Mountain Standard Time).

Written Assignments: Students will be given a written assignment on the week stated in the syllabus. These assignments consist of answering a specific question regarding one chapter for that week. Answers are limited to no more than 500 words. There will be 4 written assignments and each is worth 10 points (40 points total). Make-up assignments may only be acceptable under extreme circumstances and all makeup assignments, if granted, must be completed within one week of the original assignment date.

Self-Assessment Quizzes: At the end of each module, you will be given a self-assessment quiz. These self-assessment quizzes are only provided to help you manage your study efforts more effectively. These scores do not count toward your semester grade. If your score is low on a quiz you should probably use that feedback to alter your level of study on that chapter. If your score is high, then you can infer that you are studying sufficiently and probably do not need to alter your study habits from what you are currently doing.

FINAL GRADE CALCULATION:

Your final grade in this class will be determined based on the exams and written assignments.

Exam 1	100 Points
Exam 2	100 Points
Exam 3	100 Points
Exam 4	100 Points
Written Assignment 1	10 Points
Written Assignment 2	10 Points
Written Assignment 3	10 Points
Written Assignment 4	10 Points
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Total Points	440 Points

Final Grade Distribution:

440-396	Points=A
395-352	Points=B
351-308	Points=C
307-0	Points=F

Please note:

I have right to make any changes to the course or syllabus and any changes will be announced ahead of time in an announcement and/or email. There will be no curve used in grading, no grades will be dropped, and there will be no extra credit. Do not contact me at the end of the semester regarding extra points for a particular letter grade. Your grade is an accomplishment, not a gift!

Important Reminders:

The exams are timed, meaning that once you begin the exam you will have a limited amount of time to complete and submit your work. The exams will automatically close and submit at the end of the time limit if you haven't already submitted it yourself. Do not wait until the last minute to begin exams. This way, if you do

experience any difficulties with submissions, they can be corrected before the module closes.

Technology Issues

I will not provide you with technical assistance. Rather, you should familiarize yourself with the assistance available to you whenever you have problems. You should also ensure that you have the appropriate hardware and software.

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Accommodations and Support Services:

If a student needs an accommodation, then the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services.

A Final Note:

1. I will provide you clear instructions on class expectations.
2. I will check my email and will answer back to you as soon as possible.
3. I will check “Dr. Z’s Corner” each business day and make any needed responses at that time.
4. I will provide graded feedback on your performance in a timely manner.

5. I will keep you informed about your graded progress in the class at all times and will make time to discuss your concerns when needed.
6. I am open to suggestions about improvement of the class and class related activities.
7. I will do all I can to ensure your learning and success in this class
8. If any changes in the course are to be implemented, I will ensure that the class is notified in a timely manner.
9. Read all postings on the bulletin board and all emails from me.
10. I strongly recommend that you check the course at least three times a week at minimum to keep up. Email messages are sent to your UTEP email address, so you will want to check your UTEP email several times a week, preferably each business day.
11. Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate as fully as they can so everyone can get the most from the experience.

Week	Dates	Topic	Readings and Notes
		Part I: Concepts of Crime, Law and Criminology	
1	Aug. 22-27	Crime and Criminology	Chapter 1 <i>Written Assignment 1</i>
2	Aug. 29-Sept. 3	The Nature and Extent of Crime	Chapter 2
3	Sept. 5-10	Victims and Victimization	Chapter 3
4	Sept. 12-17	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, and 3
		Part II: Theories of Crime Causation	
5	Sept 19-24	Rational Choice Theory	Chapter 4
6	Sept. 26-Oct. 1	Trait Theories	Chapter 5
7	Oct. 3-8	Social Structure Theories	Chapter 6 <i>Written Assignment 2</i>
8	Oct. 10-15	Exam 2	Chapter 4, 5, and 6
9	Oct. 17-22	Social Process Theory	Chapter 7 <i>Written Assignment 3</i>
10	Oct. 24-29	Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice	Chapter 8
11	Oct. 31-Nov. 5	Developmental Theories: Life Course, Latent Trait, and Trajectory	Chapter 9
12	Nov. 7-12	Exam 3	Chapters 7, 8, and 9
		Part III: Crime Typologies	
13	Nov. 14-19	Interpersonal Violence	Chapter 10 <i>Written Assignment 4</i>
14	Nov. 21-26	Political Crime and Terrorism	Chapter 11
15	Nov. 28-Dec. 3	Public Order Crimes	Chapter 13
16	Dec. 5-10	Exam 4	Chapters 10, 11, 14